

SENATE—Thursday, April 6, 2000

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Right Reverend John B. Cairns, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland, will give the prayer.

PRAYER

The guest chaplain, Rt. Rev. John B. Cairns, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Loving God, through Your love the world was formed, by Your love it is sustained, in Your love is its life. There is a color, richness, and variety throughout Your creation that brings a response of wonder and praise, of thankfulness for so many gifts.

We give thanks for the unquenchable desire for liberty and justice sown in the hearts of women and men throughout the world, for the heartfelt aspiration for peace in individuals and nations, and that, though many wrong turnings are taken, there is still a road of hope ahead.

We acknowledge with thanksgiving the many contributions of this Nation toward the world's well-being: its welcome and defense of the weak and oppressed, its sacrifice in the interests of freedom for those beyond its shores, its inventiveness and its culture, a developing blend of differing traditions and understandings.

We pray for all in authority and government, particularly the Senators as they fulfill the call to leadership. May they exercise their power with wisdom and compassion and so contribute to the coming of that day when, for this and all nations, every way shall be a way of gentleness and every path a path of peace.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). The distinguished majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL TARTAN DAY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I rise to commemorate the second anniversary of National Tartan Day. I will be assisting those who do not have on their plaids, their Tartans, during the day to make sure you have one for your lapel—if not around your neck. We welcome our special guest chaplain in the Senate, the Right Reverend John Cairns, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. It is my understanding that the office of Moderator is the highest honor that the Church of Scotland can bestow on a minister. The Moderator has had a distinguished career in the ministry, and we are truly privileged to have him as our guest for today's Tartan Day activities.

I remind my colleagues that the resolution which established National Tartan Day was Senate Resolution 155. It passed by unanimous consent on March 20th of 1998. As an American of Scottish descent, I appreciate the efforts of individuals, clan organizations, and other groups such as the Scottish Coalition, who were instrumental in generating support for the resolution. These groups have worked diligently to foster national awareness of the important role that Americans of Scottish descent have played in the progress of our country.

The purpose of National Tartan Day is to recognize the contributions that Americans of Scottish ancestry have made to our national heritage. It also recognizes the contributions that Americans of Scottish ancestry continue to make to our country. National Tartan Day is an opportunity to pause and reflect on the role Scottish Americans have played in advancing democracy and freedom. They have helped shape this Nation. Their contributions are innumerable. In fact, I myself was surprised to learn that three-fourths of all American Presidents can trace their roots to Scotland.

In addition to recognizing Americans of Scottish ancestry, National Tartan Day reminds us of the importance of freedom. It honors those who strived for freedom from an oppressive government on April 6, 1320. It was on that day that the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, was signed. This important document served as the model for America's Declaration of Independence.

In demanding their independence from England, the men of Arbroath wrote, "We fight for liberty alone, which no good man loses but with his life." These words are applicable today to the heroism of our American vet-

erans and active duty forces who know the precious cost of fighting for liberty.

Senate Resolution 155 has served as a catalyst for the many States, cities, and counties that have passed similar resolutions recognizing the important contributions of Scottish Americans.

I hail originally from Carroll County, MS, where the neighborhood was made up of Watsons, my mother's family; McCains, Senator JOHN MCCAIN's family; McCalebs, McLeans, McKellys, and the list goes on and on. Most of them were "Macs." I don't know how the Watsons got in there.

I thank all of my colleagues who supported this resolution in the past and who helped to remind the world of the stand for liberty taken on April 6—almost 700 years ago—in Arbroath, Scotland. A call for liberty which still echoes through our history and the history of many nations across the globe.

It has been my hope that this annual event will grow in prominence each year, similar to St. Patrick's Day and Columbus Day, and the ceremonies and activities taking place today and over the next few days demonstrate that these goals are coming to fruition. I believe April 6 can also serve as a day to recognize those nations that have not achieved the principles of freedom which we hold dear. The example of the Scotsmen at Arbroath—their courage—their desire for freedom—serves as a beacon to countries still striving for liberty today.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 101, the budget resolution. By a previous order, there will be two back-to-back votes beginning at 10:30 a.m. The vote on the Byrd amendment will be the first, to be followed by a vote on the Roth amendment. Following the votes, the Durbin amendment regarding tax cuts will be the pending amendment.

For the information of all Senators, the so-called vote-arama—and I hope it will not rise to that level; maybe it will just be a few votes we will have to take one after the other—is expected to begin at some point this evening. I do want to emphasize, though, unless we are successful, on both sides of the aisle—let me say, Senator REID has been working very hard on the Democratic side of the aisle. They have a reasonably low number of amendments still pending. We hope to reduce the number on this side of the aisle, too. We should be able to determine by late